

SRS UPDATE

NEWS FROM THE SAVANNAH RIVER SITE • NOVEMBER 2005

WSRC named one of the 12 safest companies in America

Occupational Hazards magazine has named the Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC) one of the 12 safest companies in America.

WSRC, a Washington Group International company, is the lead company that operates the Savannah River Site for the U.S. Department of Energy. Other companies in the WSRC Team are Bechtel Savannah River Inc., BNG America Savannah River Corporation, BWXT Savannah River Company and CH2 Savannah River Company.

The magazine is featuring WSRC and the other 11 winners in its October issue.

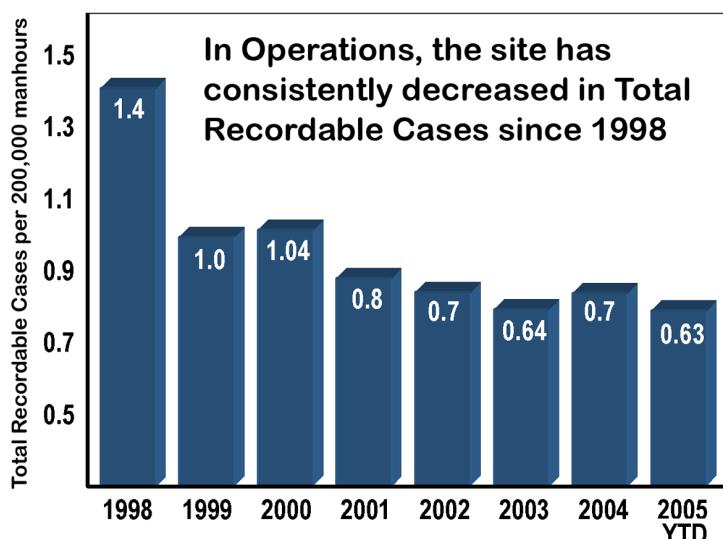
WSRC President Bob Pedde said this recognition is confirmation that SRS continues to be a workplace dedicated to safety from top to bottom, side to side.

"We care deeply about our employees' safety at work and at home. We want them to practice safety in every aspect of their lives," Pedde said. "That's why our employees are at the forefront of our safety program. They know that our families want us to arrive at home in the same condition as when we went to work."

WSRC reinforces safety as one of its four core values, and continues to be a leader in safety in the DOE complex and when compared to other industries.



WSRC workers carefully maneuver a spent fuel cask.



Occupational Hazards magazine also says that America's safest companies not only have employee involvement and empowerment in safety, they have upper management commitment that goes beyond lip service.

The Construction Department continues its world-class performance – through Oct. 1, they have worked over 2,655 days and nearly 16.7 million hours since their last days away injury case.

Total Recordable Cases is the term used to describe any injury that goes beyond first aid, e.g., sutures, treatment of fractures, or dispensation of prescription medication.

SRS IN BRIEF

Final F Area 94-1 materials complete



The Phase I control room.

ell said. "This accomplishment is a clear example of our commitment to execute our work with the highest standards of safety, security, radiological controls and discipline."

The materials were brought to H Area as part of FB Line's successful deinventory.

Neptunium, which is being stabilized in HB Line and shipped to Idaho, is now the final remaining 94-1 material at SRS.

In late September, the final F Area materials identified in Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board recommendation 94-1 were stabilized in HB Line ahead of schedule.

The work was completed by a team of SRNL, F-Area Material Storage Facility, F/H Lab, H Canyon and HB Line personnel with a perfect safety and disciplined operations record.

HB Line Facility Manager Charles Nickell said that many obstacles threatened to jeopardize the campaign's success. At one point, he explained, the prospect of reaching the milestone on time looked grim.

"Through the determination and resourcefulness of the team members, all the obstacles were overcome," Nick-

Jantzen wins Bleininger Award



Carol Jantzen, SRNL, recently received national recognition.

Carol Jantzen, Ph.D., Savannah River National Laboratory, was recently presented a prestigious award at the Materials Science & Technology conference in Pittsburgh.

Dr. Jantzen is the 2005 winner of the American Ceramic Society Bleininger Award that recognizes excellence and life-long achievements in the field of ceramics.

Dr. Jantzen has a doctorate in Materials Science and Engineering from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, specializing in glass chemistry, glass decomposition mechanisms, and glass durability. She has 30 years experience in glass formulation and solidification technology. She has extensive research and development expertise in vitreous, crystalline ceramic, mineral and cementitious waste-form development. She has developed waste forms for a wide variety of high level wastes and hazardous/mixed and low-level

wastes in both the U.S. and Europe. Dr. Jantzen developed the statistical process control models that have safely and reliably controlled the nation's first – and the world's largest – high level waste glass vitrification facility, the Defense Waste Processing Facility, and the first Transportable Vitrification System in the world.

Dr. Jantzen has two degrees in geology and geochemistry from Queens College of the City University of New York, and she studied high temperature geochemistry at The Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pa. She is a registered State of South Carolina geologist.

SRS IN BRIEF

SRS radiation dose continues to be extremely low

The radiation impact of the Savannah River Site on the off-site public continues to be far below the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) all-pathway dose standard of 100 millirem per year, according to the *SRS Environmental Report for 2004*. (A millirem is a standard unit of measure for radiation exposure.)

The largest radiation dose that any off-site individual could have received from SRS operations in 2004 is estimated to be 0.15 millirem, which is less than 1 percent of the DOE limit. This estimated dose is also extremely small in comparison to the natural average dose of about 300 millirem per year to people in the United States and 21 percent less than the site's 2003 all-pathway dose of 0.19 millirem.

Environmental monitoring is conducted extensively within a 2,000 square mile network extending 25 miles from SRS, with some monitoring performed as far as 100 miles from the site. The area includes neighboring cities, towns and counties in Georgia and South Carolina. Thousands of samples of air, rainwater, surface water, drinking water, groundwater, food products, wildlife, soil, sediment and vegetation are collected by SRS and state authorities and analyzed for radioactive and nonradioactive contaminants.

The environmental report can be accessed at the following web site: <http://www.srs.gov/general/pubs/ERsum/index.html>.



SRS field technician Becky Sturdivant collects water samples from the site stream network.

Volunteers for United Way's Projects CARE, VISION and SERVE

More than 200 SRS employees recently participated in the United Way's Project CARE, Project VISION and Project SERVE.

Project VISION was a one-day volunteer initiative to address specific housing needs of citizens in Aiken County, S.C.; Projects CARE and SERVE were similar efforts, with CARE being held in Barnwell County, S.C., and SERVE in Augusta, Ga.

Local citizens volunteer through their employer to help with home repairs for people who are unable to complete the repairs due to poor health or financial inability. Typical jobs include clearing yard debris, building wheelchair ramps, installing smoke detectors, replacing roofs, cutting grass, planting flowers and painting.

"This is a great opportunity for SRS employees to be good neighbors in their communities throughout the CSRA," said Ali Simpkins, SRS Employee United Way Campaign Chair. "We're excited that we've had a great response from employees for all three projects. We're glad to roll up our sleeves and pitch in."



SRS employees Sean Bohrer [left] and Tom Allison assist Charles Hiers [center], Camp Tanglewood, with the construction of a fence.

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SRS IN BRIEF

Site preparation begins for MOX facility

The National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) plutonium disposition program moved another step forward with the start of site preparation for its Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility at the Savannah River Site.

NNSA Administrator Linton F. Brooks and U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham led a group of U.S. and Russian dignitaries in turning the first shovels of earth at the MOX facility site at SRS, located in F Area.

"Starting site preparation in advance of construction for the MOX facility will bring us one step closer to disposing of large quantities of weapon-grade plutonium in the United States and Russia," said Brooks. "The MOX facility will create hun-

dreds of new jobs at SRS and will provide a pathway out of South Carolina for plutonium brought here for disposition."

"The congressional delegation and the Bush administration are committed to ensuring the MOX program becomes a reality. Today is another important step in the right direction," said Sen. Graham. "The MOX program is vital to our national security, and we will continue to work together to ensure it is adequately funded. The citizens of South Carolina, along



From left, Jeff Allison, DOE Savannah River Operations Office Manager; Rep. Charlie Norwood, R-GA; Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-SC; Rep. Gresham Barrett, R-SC; Amb. Linton Brooks, National Nuclear Security Administration Administrator; Sen. Jim DeMint, R-SC; and Sterling Franks, Fissile Materials Disposition Site Office Director.

with the Savannah River Site workforce, should be proud of the role we are playing in making the world a safer place."



The SRS Update is published monthly by Westinghouse Savannah River Company. If you have questions or comments about any of the articles, call 803.952.9583. Change of Address? Notify the WSRC Service Center: service-center@srs.gov or PSSC Bldg. 703-47A, Aiken, SC 29808

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